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## TALKS TO LAWYERS

## Parker Gives Review of Hit-or-Miss and the Profuse Legislation

Special to Daily Panhandle.

Portland, Me., Aug. 27.—The annual address of the president of the American Bar association read by Alton R. Parker, yesterday afternoon before the convention, was in a characteristic vein of the "safe and sane" nominee of the Democratic nominee in 1904, but the address contains an able and forceful consideration of some tendencies in American law and legislation. In addition to discussing the relation of lawyers to the public and to legislation, Mr. Parker took occasion to consider judicially recent movements in legislation and said in part as follows:

The proper function of the legislator is supplementary to that of the judge. He should strive to ascertain the growing but imperfect customs which spring from the effort of a people to correct errors, and give to the dignity and force of law. This he often attempts to do, and frequently succeeds. But the task of even the wise legislator is beset with difficulties. So many bills press upon his attention, that if he had the wisdom of Solomon he could not master them in one short session. Many such bills are introduced by men who do not understand them, merely that they may gain the applause of the thoughtless of the envious. Others are strike bills presented in the hope of unlawful gain. Still others are presented from honest motives, but with no appreciation that their enactment will work injury, while still more represent the effort of untrained legislators to enact into law what they mistakenly conceive to be the will of the people.

Political bills are mischievous. More mischievous still, as a rule, are the bills pressed for passage in the interests of a political organization. Experience teaches that comparatively few of the many bills of a legislative session are carefully considered by the body as a whole. Such consideration as the average bill has is in committee, and too often the majority of that committee is influenced by party organization, or by the governor, or by some other leader who sees in it a party or factional advantage. And its final enactment is secured by the same influence that moved the majority to report it. In other words, supposed advantage, either for the party or individual members of it, is often made the occasion for statutes which otherwise would never appear on the statute books. Thus it happens that every year many statutes are passed which ought never to have been heard of.

Unnecessary Laws Are Blot.  
Every unnecessary and unwise statute is a blot upon the state seal and a burden upon the public. This fact is so well appreciated in some states, that the legislature is not permitted to meet every year. An illustration of the opinion of a lawyer upon whom as governor rested the responsibility of the exercise of the veto power, as to many bills passed only this year by the legislature of the state of New York, is found in the fact that he vetoed thirty-seven, caused one hundred and ninety-seven to be withdrawn, and permitted two hundred and fifty to die for lack of his signature, making a total of four hundred and eighty-four bills which, after passage through committees and both houses, failed nevertheless to become laws because of the governor's action. While it is true that some whole, some and necessary statutes come out of such conditions like those I have outlined, in more instances unnecessary or positively bad ones spring from them.

They (the demagogues), filled the land with denunciation not only of those who had been wrongdoers, but of all corporate interests of every kind. It mattered not to them that the great trunk lines of railroad contributing so largely to the magnificent and uniform development of the country, the street surface railroads, adding so largely to the comfort and convenience of a vast contingent of our population, the great manufacturing plants, bearing their part in making up the wealth of the people, and many other industries



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requiring large amounts of capital, could not have been built at all but for the device of the corporation, which had enabled hundreds, and in some instances hundreds of thousands of persons to unite in the construction and operation of a single undertaking. For their purpose was not the patriotic one of discovering and applying remedies. Instead they sought power, political leadership and office. They sought them for selfish advantage, not for the public weal. Therefore, they hesitated not because injustice would inevitably result from their forays against all wealth whether honestly or dishonestly gained, whether employed for public good or public harm.

The fathers who framed our Constitution as well as those of the original thirteen states, had a wholesome fear of arbitrary power. They sought to limit governmental power by law, the source of which should be the people—the states to be supreme as to all matters, and to exercise all powers except those specifically granted to the national government, the constitution of each state to be the supreme law and capable of amendment only by its people.

A statute upon the face of which no imperfection appears, and which will stand, unless it can be proved that it will prevent the property affected from earning a reasonable return for the investment, is presumptively constitutional. Its operation, therefore, is not a matter to be suspended for light reasons. Indeed, I have no hesitation in saying that in many such cases an appeal to the discretion of a judge that injunction issue could well be denied until after trial.

The abuses lying at the foundation of the earnest but sometimes reckless groping for remedies, must be checked. And if it were necessary, in order to promote this result, to pass through these processes, many of which will prove destructive of the rights and interests of a multitude of innocent and honest persons—still it would be well. For the property, the service and even the life of a citizen should be cheerfully sacrificed on the altar of the country's necessities.

## Legislators Crazed With Ambition

You cannot move legislators crazed with ambition. But the people can, and will do so when they fully understand the situation. And we need never fear they will not understand it after a time. But the people should be informed now. Do not forget, however, that if you attempt it, you will be denounced by the demagogue and cartooned by the yellow press, a fate which has come to the few who have appealed to reason and to justice. These tactics have enforced silence upon many whose hearts have prompted them to point out the danger of government by passion. But they cannot keep silent the earnest lawyers of this country for a minute after they have determined that duty calls them to speak out. God grant that the hour of that determination is at hand.

## Drain Experts Meet.

Special to Daily Panhandle.  
Port Huron, Mich., Aug. 27.—A drainage congress which has attracted the leading experts and drainage commissioners of the state began here today. The opening session was taken up with addresses on drainage topics. Tomorrow the delegates will go on a trip through the St. Clair tunnel and take dinner in Canada.

—Bring the Daily Panhandle all your news items. They help to make the paper new.

## COINS THAT ARE BASE

Metals and Methods Used in Making Counterfeits.

## HOW THEY MAY BE DETECTED

Spurious Coins Cannot Stand the Three Tests of Weight, Diameter and Thickness—Gold Pieces That Are Sweated, Plugged or Filled.

The most dangerous counterfeits are struck from a die and are usually imitations of gold coins. Molds of various kinds are extensively used, but counterfeits so made are inferior to those made with a die.

In counterfeits made from a mold lettering, milling and reeding are usually poor and weight defective. The coins lack the sharp and clear cut appearance of genuine coin. Most counterfeit silver coins in circulation are made from molds, as it is an inexpensive form of counterfeiting. Some fair specimens have been produced in this way, but usually they are much lighter than the genuine and if of required weight differ in diameter or thickness.

Various metals are used by counterfeiters, principally platinum, silver, copper, brass, antimony, aluminum, zinc, type metal, lead and their numerous compositions.

Among the most dangerous counterfeits of gold coin are those of a composition of gold, silver and copper. They are a low grade gold, and the acid test shows they lack the fineness of standard gold used by the United States mint, which is 900 fine, or 21.10 carats. These counterfeits average from 400 to 800 fine. Platinum counterfeits are dangerous, as the metal used gives required weight, and they are heavily gold plated. When they have been in circulation for a time the plating wears off, especially on the edges.

The most dangerous counterfeit of silver coin is made of a composition of antimony and lead, the former metal predominating. These counterfeits are of the dollar, have a fine appearance, are heavily silver plated, with fair ring, and some are only slightly below the standard weight.

Some pieces among the smaller coins are made of brass, struck from a die, and when heavily plated are fair imitations. They lack required weight, except in a few instances. Counterfeits of type metal, lead and other compositions are much lighter than genuine. Those having required weight are much too thick.

Genuine coins of all kinds, for the sake of gain, are tampered with in various ways. These operations are confined almost exclusively to gold coins, which are sweated, plugged and filled. Sweating is removing a portion of the gold from surface of coin. The process does not interfere with the ring, and as the portion removed is generally slight the coin is left with a very fair appearance, weight only being defective. The principal methods of sweating are the acid bath, filling the edges or reeding, the operator finding a profit in the small quantities of gold removed from numerous pieces. The average reduction in value of coins subjected to these processes is from one-twentieth to one-tenth.

Plugging is done by boring holes in the coin, extracting the gold and filling the cavity with a cheaper material. The larger coins—double eagles and eagles (twenty and ten dollar pieces)—are used for this purpose. The small surface of the plugging material, where it shows on the edge of the coin, is covered with gold and the reeding retouched with a file or machine. The average loss in value to coins treated in this way is from one-eighth to one-sixth. Coins of this kind are very dangerous, as they are perfect in appearance, only the edges having been tampered with.

Filling is most commonly done by sawing the coin through from the edge or reeding, removing the interior portion and replacing it with a cheap metal. Coins of all denominations from quarter eagle to double eagle are subjected to this process. When platinum



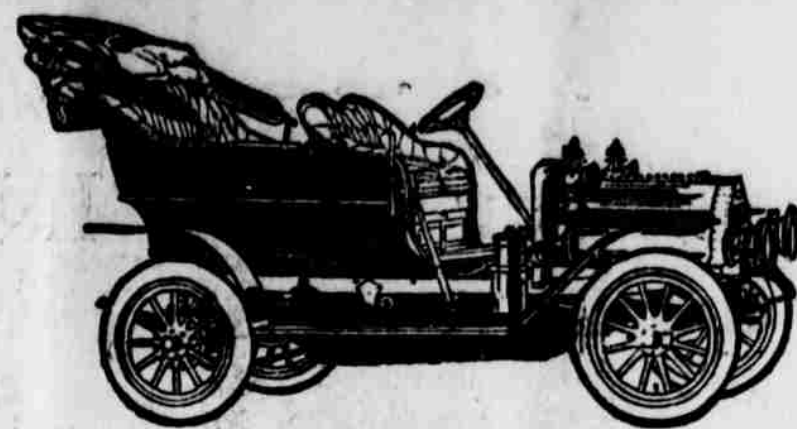
## PROFIT OR LOSS

Is the vital question with every merchant. The right kind of goods at the right kind of prices is the policy that's successful. If you sell

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is used to replace gold extracted the coin has same weight as genuine. By this process coins lose four-fifths of their value, as the original surfaces are left only of paper thickness.

When edges have been covered with gold and reeding restored the coin has the appearance of being genuine, having correct size and weight and a fair ring. Sometimes the covering of gold on edges is so thin that filling can be distinctly seen. When other and less costly filling than platinum is used coins are of light weight and have a bad ring. If of correct weight they are too thick.

Another method of filling is sawing the coin partly in two, from edge of reeding, on one side, leaving a thin and thick portion. The thin side of the coin is turned back and the gold extracted from center of thicker portion. The cavity is filled with base metal and sides pressed back into original position and soldered or brazed together. It is difficult to give average loss to coins treated in this manner, as hardly any two seen have the same amount of gold taken from them.

For detecting counterfeit coin compare impress, size, weight, ring and general appearance with genuine coin of same period and coinage. The three tests of weight, diameter and thickness should be applied, for it is almost impossible for the counterfeiter to comply with these three tests without using genuine metal.—Counterfeit Detector.

## A HEAVY MIDDAY MEAL.

The Business Man, it is Claimed, Should Avoid It.

The Americans and English begin the day with breakfast, which is generally a substantial meal. This the people of the continent of Europe consider barbaric and disgusting. The Frenchman and the German breakfast on a scanty roll. They are consequently unable to go till the afternoon without absorbing something massive. The Frenchman toward noon takes a substantial lunch, and at midday the German takes a heavy meal, which absorbs his digestive energies during the remainder of the day. The German dinner makes a big break in the working day, and the eater, according to Dr. Martinet of Paris, suffers by a loss of energy during the afternoon. The heavy midday meal Dr. Martinet considers a mistake. One should not have dinner at noon, in the middle of one's workday, he says, but instead should take a light lunch. The lightest meal of the day, he thinks, should be during the period of exertion, and the heavy meal should be reserved for a later hour, when there is a chance for digestive repose. The proper series for the modern man, according to this authority, is a substantial breakfast, a light lunch about noon and a square meal at 6 o'clock or later.—Baltimore Sun.

## The One Thing Left.

"But what will there be left for you to do after your toiling and scheming and self denial have brought you the millions you covet?"

"What'll there be left? Gosh, I can go to New York and spend 'em, can't I?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

## It Hurt Him.

Tommy—Did the fowl hurt you, Mr. Squires? Mr. Squires—What d'you mean, my dear? What fowl? Tommy—Well, I wanted to know if it hurt, 'cause mummy said you had been benched for twenty years.—Strand Magazine

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